GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2531
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Protected Species
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of protected species of animals, birds and plants under the Wild Life Protection Act 1972;
(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of those speciest;
(c) whether it is fact that several species of turtles and snakes had been seized from different parts of the country and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the estimated worth of seized species and the action taken against the persons responsible for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) and (b) There are 909 entries of taxa(including species, genus, families, orders and classes) of animals, birds and plants in the various Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The names of protected species of animals, birds and plants in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is at Annexure-1. The important steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of these species include:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

iii. Special programmes like 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' have been launched for conservation of these endangered species and their habitats.

iv. A specific component of "Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on selected critically endangered species.

v. In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

vi. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.

vii. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

viii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

(c) and (d) During the last two years, about 137 cases of Turtles and Snakes seizures have been reported to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau by various agencies in the country. The details of such cases are at Annexure-2. Estimation of worth of the seized articles is not done as there is no market value attributed for the such wildlife articles in the country. The respective State/Union Territory Governments have been mandated with taking action against the offenders in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
***